

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

KENTUCKY UTILITIES COMPANY)	
)	
_____)	CASE NO. 92-001
)	
ALLEGED FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH)	
COMMISSION REGULATION 807 KAR 5:041)	

O R D E R

After receiving an Electrical Utility Accident Investigation Report prepared by Commission Staff which alleged that Kentucky Utilities Company ("KU") had failed to comply with Commission Regulation 807 KAR 5:041, Section 3, the Commission ordered the utility to show cause why it should not be penalized for its alleged failure. Responding to the allegations contained in that report, KU maintains that no violation of Commission regulations has occurred. KU has stipulated the facts in this matter and has waived its right to hearing.

After reviewing the evidence of record and being otherwise sufficiently advised, the Commission finds that:

1. KU, a private corporation incorporated under the laws of Kentucky, engages in the distribution of electricity to the public, for compensation, for light, heat, power and other uses, and is therefore a utility subject to the Commission's jurisdiction. KRS 278.010(3)(a) and 278.040.

2. Commission Regulation 807 KAR 5:041, Section 3, requires electric utilities to maintain their plant and facilities in accordance with the standards of the National Electrical Safety Code (1990 edition) ("NESC").

3. On October 7, 1991, Kevin Dixon was injured while performing routine preventive maintenance on an energized motor controlled center ("MCC") at KU's Ghent Generating Station in Ghent, Kentucky. Dixon suffered first and second degree burns (equivalent to a severe sunburn) to his face and neck when the insulated screwdriver which he was using came into contact with an energized MCC lead to ground.

4. At the time of the incident, Dixon was wearing leather work gloves, a long-sleeved shirt, safety glasses, and a hard hat. He was not wearing rubber gloves that are available to all plant employees.

5. Dixon was treated at the Carroll County Memorial Hospital for his injuries and he was released the same day.

6. At the time of the incident, Dixon knew that the MCC in question was energized. Dixon and his co-worker, W. Ed Cundiff, intended to work only on the de-energized secondary side of the circuit breaker. Dixon was injured when he inadvertently attempted to tighten a connection on the energized side of the breaker. The contact between ground and an energized lead resulted in an electrical flash.

7. The electrical energy to the MCC in question does not exceed a voltage of 480 volts.

8. While an MCC is usually de-energized when this type of routine maintenance is performed, the MCC in question was not de-energized at the time of the incident. It was serving several welding leads plus some temporary lighting and, in Dixon's judgment, could not be de-energized. This was a condition which Dixon and Cundiff discussed before proceeding to conduct the maintenance work.

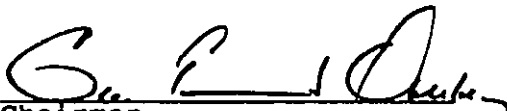
9. NESC does not address rubber glove usage for voltage up to 1,000 volts. Dixon's failure to wear rubber gloves, therefore, did not constitute a violation of NESC Section 42 (420H).

10. There is no evidence that KU or its employees failed to comply with Commission Regulation 807 KAR 5:041, Section 3, in the incident under review.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that this case is hereby closed and removed from the Commission's docket.

Done at Frankfort, Kentucky, this 16th day of April, 1992.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION


Chairman


Vice Chairman

ATTEST:


Executive Director, Acting


Commissioner